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#44

EAST EUROPE BRANCH NOTES

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POLAND

Bonn Talks Produce Bad Vibes

Viewed from Warsaw, the protracted West German-Polish normalization negotiations appear to have reached a low ebb. Authoritative Polish journalists are now directly charging the Brandt government with responsibility for a near impasse. With apparent official approval, the scribes maintain that the Germans have yet to come up with respectable long-term credit and war reparations offers.

Acutely aware of the tough words directed their way, West German embassy officials nonetheless remain optimistic about eventual progress. They point out that a date for the next round will soon be set. And, they argue that their negotiators maintain an advantage inasmuch as normalization is more important to the Poles than the Germans.

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HUNGARY

"First" Drug Case

Hungarian media have reported the "first" drug case in the country. A 37-year-old bartender was given a one-year jail term for growing marijuana in his apartment. The report claimed that the man had "become addicted" to the drug while out of the country and had brought his habit and some hemp seeds back with him. While this undoubtedly is not the "first" Hungarian drug case, it is the first media attention to a possible drug problem since Budapest passed a tough narcotics law more than two years ago.

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ROMANIA

South Koreans to Attend IPU Meeting

Romania has granted permission for a nine-member South Korean delegation to attend the general assembly meeting of the International Parliamentary Union which is slated to open

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next Monday in Bucharest. Because Seoul's Ambassador to Austria will lead the delegation, the South Koreans may play up their attendance as a significant breakthrough in promoting better relations with the communist world. He will be the first senior South Korean diplomat ever to be granted entry to a Communist country. Although a counselor of the embassy in Italy represented Seoul at the 1965 population conference in Yugoslavia, recent South Korean attempts to attend conferences in Yugoslavia and Poland have been rejected.

Bucharest, however, could not bar South Korea, which is a member of the IPU, without compromising its well known "principles of international relations." Moreover, the Romanians have a knack for trying to maintain good relations with everyone.

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